

paper as knives 56, 57 enter a groove 58 in wheel 2. Plungers 60 then holds the paper on wheel 2 until the paper passes between guide 59 and wheel 2. Guide 59 is stationary and has a spring to aid in permitting plungers 60 to pass by the guide 59.

Nagano discloses a pinless folder having a cut-off knife and a hold-down blade. The cut-off knife cuts the web and the hold down blade folds the front edge into a gap, where a gripper board grips the front end of the web.

The independent claims of the present invention have now been amended to recite "at least one product gripper attached to the paper conducting cylinder for rotation therewith, the product gripper selectively extending beyond the outer circumference of the paper conducting cylinder to hold the flat material against the outer circumference."

Support for the amendment is found at for example in Fig. 2 and the related description, which shows gripper 17 extending beyond outer circumference 15 to grip the flat material.

Neither Price nor Nagano show a gripper attached to a paper conducting cylinder for rotation therewith and extending at least part of the time beyond the outer circumference of the paper conducting cylinder.

With the present gripper, the flat material can be held on the outer circumference and transmitted with folding or damage, even after the product seizing element or bolt ceases to engage the flat material. The combination of the gripper and the engaging bolt guarantees that the paper remains fixed on the paper conducting cylinder during and after cutting.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to modify the Price device with such a gripper, as the stationary guards required by Nagano would prevent the implementation of such a gripper.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection is respectfully requested.



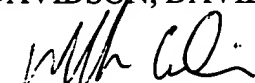
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 1 to 13 and 15 to 21 be withdrawn.
It further is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By:



William Gehris

Reg. No. 38,156

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940



ADDENDUM SHOWING CHANGES TO SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 26 as follows:

Upon further rotation of the respective outer surface 9, 15, respectively in the respective senses of rotation, the head 29 of the respective engaging bolt 27 surrounded by its guide 34, gradually seizes the respective leading edge 25 of the web of material 1, 14 from which then by cooperation of said knife 12 with said anvil bar 16 a signature is severed. During the engagement of said engaging bolt 27 with the respective web of material 1, 24 in the front area thereof a reliable cutting operation is [garantied] guaranteed and an accurate positioning of said newly created leading edge 25 of the respective multi-layered web of material is maintained. Due to the force exerted upon the engaging board by the respective biasing or pretentioning element the outer surface of the leading edge of the web of material is prevented from opening-up during passage of the cutting zone 13. In this stage of rotation of the respective cylinders identified by reference numerals 19 and 32 the respective gripper element 17 is still shown in its retracted position identified by reference numeral 37. The force exerted by the pretentioning or biasing element upon said engaging bolt 27 is dependent on the thickness of the respective leading edge, on the respective thickness of the paper stock and of the number of ribbons of the web of material 1, 24 to be processed.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A folder for printed products comprising:
 - a first cylinder having a surface and having knife assemblies assigned to the surface;
 - a paper-conducting cylinder having an outer circumference and supporting a flat material on the outer circumference; [and]
 - the first cylinder having a biased product seizing element assigned to the surface of the first cylinder, the biased product seizing element engaging said flat material received on the outer circumference of the paper-conducting cylinder so as to hold the flat material on the paper-conducting cylinder; and
 - at least one product gripper attached to the paper conducting cylinder for rotation therewith, the product gripper selectively extending beyond the outer circumference of the paper conducting cylinder to hold the flat material against the outer circumference.
11. (Twice Amended) A paper conducting assembly in a folder apparatus, comprising:
 - a first cylinder having a circumference and knife assemblies assigned to the circumference;
 - a paper conducting cylinder having an outer circumference and supporting a flat material on the outer circumference; [and]



a biased product seizing element assigned to the circumference of said first cylinder engaging said flat material on said outer circumference so as to hold the flat material on the paper conducting cylinder; and

at least one product gripper attached to the paper conducting cylinder for rotation therewith, the product gripper selectively extending beyond the outer circumference of the paper conducting cylinder to hold the flat material against the outer circumference.

13. (Twice Amended) A method for holding a flat material in a folder of a printing press on different supporting surfaces comprising the steps of:

supporting a leading edge of a web of material on a first supporting surface of a paper conducting cylinder with a biased product seizing element in a first engaged position, the biased product seizing element [the biased product element] being on another cylinder cooperating with the paper conducting cylinder; [and]

having a product seizing element adopt a first disengaged position upon entry of the web of material in a cutting area; and

gripping the leading edge with a gripper while the biased product seizing element is in the first engaged position, the product gripper extending beyond an outer circumference of the other cylinder to hold the leading edge against the outer circumference.

15. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 13 wherein said product seizing element adopts a second disengaged position after the gripping step [said product seizing element has released the respective leading edge of said web of material upon seizing of said newly created leading edge by a gripper element].

16. (Amended) A device for seizing a flat material on a transporting surface comprising:

a first cylinder having a surface and having knife assemblies assigned to the surface;

a paper-conducting cylinder having an outer circumference and supporting a flat material on the outer circumference; and

a biased engaging bolt assigned to the surface, the biased engaging bolt adopting an engaging position upon cooperation with said flat material received on the outer circumference; and

at least one product gripper attached to the paper conducting cylinder for rotation therewith, the product gripper selectively extending beyond the outer circumference of the paper conducting cylinder to hold the flat material against the outer circumference.

